

# Religious Arrogance and Spiritual Openness

by Piya Tan

A high class young scholar once approached a wise but poor teacher to check if he is really a great man. On meeting, the teacher, he was at once rude and even scolded the teacher as low class, not respectable, not white-skinned (sic), and so on (the teacher was poor, after all).

The wise teacher then revealed to the young scholar that he (the scholar) had himself come from a poor and low class family. When the scholar refused to acknowledge this, he saw a frightening vision that changed his mind.

Then the scholar's highly-qualified teacher himself comes to apologize on behalf of the arrogant student, and learns a higher truth from the humble teacher, and becomes a saint.

The question now is what happened to the student? Who are the teachers here? What is the real lesson of this story? How is the Greek god Hercules (sic) involved here?

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